



The Bookworm Ages 0-2

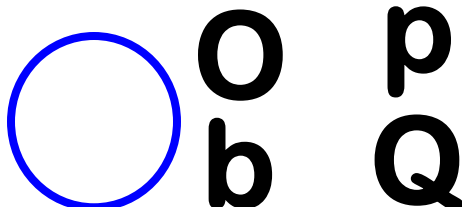
From your Local Library and Idaho's Read to Me Program

Babies determine shapes and objects at an early age

Did you know that everyday objects around the house are learning tools for your baby? Babies are trying to make sense of their world, and one way they do this is to look, taste, listen to, and feel objects. This helps them sort the objects into categories, such as round objects/soft objects; and to tell one object from another, such a blanket from a ball.

There is a lot going on in the heads of babies! Babies recognize objects by forming a picture in their heads based on the features of the object. They tend to pay attention to some features more than others. Babies as young as four months use **size** and **shape** to recognize objects. As they get older, they use **color** and **pattern** to help them tell objects apart.

How does this relate to early literacy? For babies, learning about shapes is the first stage of recognizing letters. Talking about and playing with shapes with your young child is part of their learning experience. You might say, "Feel this big ball. It is round!" Later, talking about letters and the sounds they make will help them recognize individual letters.



Book of the Month

Shapes by Justine Smith (Little Scholastic)

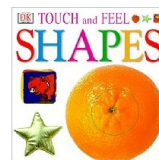
Smooth square, bumpy circle, scratchy triangle— This bold and bright board book shows the shapes within everyday objects for babies and toddlers to feel and touch.



Look for more *Little Scholastic* board books at your library:

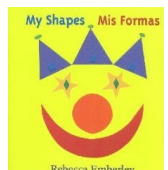


More books babies/toddlers will love:



DK Touch and Feel books: *Shapes, Home (El Hogar), 123, Playtime, Bathtime, Bedtime, Toys, Mealtime*

Author Rebecca Emberley, Bilingual books: *My Shapes/Mis Formas, My Colors/Mis Colores, My Toys/Mis Juguetes, My Room/Mi Cuarto*



A Circle Here, A Square There, David Diehl

Black and White, Tana Hoban



More fun with *Shapes...*

Talk about it... Encourage your child to touch the pages of the book. Talk to her about the shapes and colors on the pages. "Can you pat the circle? Look, a circles goes around and around, like a ball!"

Around the house... Go on a scavenger hunt with your toddler. Take a box or bag and look for round things, blue things, soft things, etc. Talk about the objects as your child puts them in the box.

Never too early... Teach your toddler to recognize his/her name, from the shapes of the letters and sounds in his name.

- Put her name on her bedroom door, toys, cup, drawings, blanket, coat hook, etc.
- Write his name in scented crayons or markers and let him smell it.
- Write it in her favorite color.
- Write his name next to his photograph.



Rhyme for Babies

"Touch"

(Touch each part of baby as named in the poem)

Touch your nose,
Touch your chin,
That's the way the game begins.
Touch your eyes,
Touch your knees,
Now pretend you're going to sneeze!
ACHOO!
Touch your hair,
Touch one ear,
Touch your two red lips right here.
Touch your elbows where they bend,
That is how this game will end.

Action Song for Toddlers

Shape Song

(to the tune of: "The Farmer in the Dell")

A circle's like a ball,
A circle's like a ball,
Round and round

It never stops.

A circle's like a ball!

A square is like a box,
A square is like a box,
It has four sides,

They are the same.

A square is like a box!

A triangle has 3 sides,
A triangle has 3 sides,
Up the mountain,

Down, and back.

A triangle has 3 sides!

A rectangle has 4 sides,
A rectangle has 4 sides,
Two are long, and

Two are short.

A rectangle has 4 sides!

What your library can do for you...

Your librarian can help you find more books and activities to help your child learn about shapes and letters!

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

